

November 2021

Dear parents/carers,

We have been contacted by some of our parents and carers to ask about whether students would be allowed to travel to and from school by e-scooter. The answer to the question is no; students are not allowed to travel to and from school by e-scooter and they are also not allowed to store an e-scooter on our school site during the school day. We have liaised with West Midlands Police and we have prepared the following information which we hope may be helpful to clarify the position of the school to our parents and carers:

Are e-scooters illegal?

The only e-scooters that can be used on public roads are those rented as part of government-backed trials. If you own an e-scooter, you can only use it on private land and it is illegal to ride an e-scooter on public roads, cycle lanes or pavements. A recent BBC report stated that the most powerful privately-owned e-scooters can reach up to 68 mph (110 km/h). The safety of our students is our paramount concern, and we believe that if students are riding e-scooters to school, not only would this potentially be illegal, but crucially, it could lead to serious injury or fatalities if they were involved in a road traffic accident. Hence, we do not allow students to travel to or from school by e-scooter.

Why can't they be used on public roads?

Currently, there isn't a specific law for e-scooters so they are recognised as "powered transporters" - falling under the same laws and regulations as motor vehicles. They are subject to all the same legal requirements - MOT, tax, licensing and specific construction.

Do you need a driving licence to ride an e-scooter on a public highway?

Yes. To use an e-scooter from an official trial, you need to have category Q entitlement on your driving licence; full/provisional UK driving licences with categories AM, A or B include category Q permissions.

Can you be prosecuted or fined for riding an e-scooter on a public highway?

Yes. The Police say they will issue fines of £50 for riding on the footway - and £100 and six driving licence penalty points for using a mobile phone or riding through a red light.

Are they dangerous?

Yes, potentially, they can be extremely dangerous. The exact number of crashes involving e-scooters is said to be massively under-reported according to the BBC. However, Chief Superintendent Simon Ovens from the Police said the numbers were increasing "sharply". In July 2019, TV presenter and YouTuber Emily Hartridge, 35, died when the e-scooter she was riding crashed.

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The police say that there have been a significant number of road traffic accidents and crashes involving e-scooters where young people have been seriously injured.

Why are students not allowed to ride an e-scooter to Arthur Terry?

If a student rides an e-scooter to school, it is a reasonable assumption that the student has illegally ridden the e-scooter on a public road or pavement to be able to get to school. As such, school cannot condone illegal activity. Furthermore, crucially, by allowing students to ride to or from school on an e-scooter, students would be placed in danger if they were to be involved in a crash or be hit by a car. Consequently, students are prohibited from travelling to or from school by e-scooter. Students are also not allowed to store an e-scooter on our school site as we cannot facilitate the storage of an item that has potentially been used in an illegal act (riding on a pavement or public highway).

We would like to be clear that if a student was to bring an e-scooter onto the school site, the school reserves the right to confiscate the e-scooter. Under these circumstances, we will not return the e-scooter to the respective student and school will keep the item in our possession until a parent/carer collects the item. We have also updated our Praise and Behaviour Policy to explicitly prohibit all e-scooters from our school site. We would also ask parents and carers to consider whether an e-scooter would be an appropriate Christmas present taking into account that they cannot be used on public highways, pavements or the school site and the dangers that they could potentially cause to the health of a child if the child was involved in an accident.

We thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

The Leadership Group